

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 10, 2007 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-25. With this Response, all claims are unchanged. In view of the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ngo (U.S. Patent No. 6,525,515). Of these, claims 1, 13 and 19 are in independent form.

Independent claim 1 provides an inrush current controller comprising a connector including a first contact for connecting to a first power supply contact of the source, a second contact for connecting to a logic output from the source, and a third contact for connecting to a second power supply contact of the source. The controller includes “an impedance having a current input that couples to the first contact of the connector” and a current output coupling to the device. The controller also includes “an impedance control circuit having a logic input coupling to the second contact of the connector, . . . the logic output from the source enabling a limited inrush at the current input during a second time interval.”

Ngo discloses a system for controlling power supplied to a hot-pluggable subsystem. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the system includes control electronics 44 coupled to terminals of an input supply 42. Optional impedances Z1-Z3 are coupled between the negative “-” input supply terminal and control electronics block 44. Impedances Z1-Z3 are not coupled to a separate contact (i.e., “second contact” in claim 1) of a connector for connecting to a logic output from a source of energization, as recited in claim 1.

Impedances Z1-Z3 are provided for external programming of the time periods between assertion of multiple power good signals (see col. 5, ln. 55-57). Power good signals are supplied to the hot-pluggable subsystem to communicate when the voltage has risen to a particular level. As described with respect to FIG. 5, a power good timer 57 is coupled to external impedances Z1-Z3 for programming time constants within control electronics 44 that operate to establish the time periods between the multiple power good signals (see col. 9, ln. 59-col. 10, ln. 17). Ngo

does not disclose that a logic output from the source of energization is provided to impedances Z1-Z3 or that impedances Z1-Z3 operate to limit an inrush at a current input that couples to a contact of a connector.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Ngo at least does not teach or suggest a logic output from a source of energization enabling a limited inrush, as recited in claim 1.

Independent claim 13 provides an inrush current controller comprising a connector including a first contact, a second contact, and a third contact. The controller includes an impedance control circuit that enables a limited inrush at the current input during a second time interval that is controlled by the logic output from the source. As discussed above, Ngo discloses external impedances Z1-Z3 for sending a power good signal to a hot-pluggable device. Ngo does not disclose a logic output from a source of energization controlling or enabling a limited inrush as claimed. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 13 is in allowable form. Further, it is submitted that related dependent claims 14-18 are also in allowable form at least based on their relation to claim 13.

Independent claim 19 provides a method of energizing a device. The method comprises providing a connector including a first contact, a second contact, and a third contact. The method further recites placing an impedance, providing an impedance control output, and providing an impedance control circuit with a logic input coupling to the logic output from the source, the logic output enabling a limited inrush at the current input during a second time interval. As discussed above, Ngo does not disclose a logic output from a source of energization controlling or enabling a limited inrush during a second time interval. For at least this reason, it is submitted that claim 19 is neither taught nor suggested by Ngo and is in allowable form. Further, it is submitted that related dependent claims 20-25 are also in allowable form at least based on their relation to claim 19.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 1-25, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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